



# NEWS RELEASE

**Arizona House of Representatives**

**Representative Maria Syme (R-28)**

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**Thursday, January 19, 2017**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Rep. Maria Syme Introduces HB 2268 to Ensure All Sexual Assault Kits Are Tested in Timely Manner** *Legislation Gives Justice to Victims, Helps Get Violent Offenders Off Our Streets*

**STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX** – Representative Maria Syme (R-28) introduced HB 2268, which will ensure that all sexual assault kits are tested in a timely manner.

**“It is time for Arizona to end the backlog of untested rape kits,”** said Representative Syme. **“This legislation gives dignity and justice to victims and protects the community by getting violent offenders off the streets.”**

Governor Ducey urged lawmakers to craft legislation on the issue in his State of the State address last week: “My budget fully funds the testing of all remaining rape kits. And with the recommendations of our task force, we are ready to move forward with legislation requiring all future kits to be tested. Let’s get this done, and for the thousands of women who have been victimized, finally ensure justice.”

Representative Syme, along with Representative Phil Lovas, Senators Katie Hobbs, Kate Brophy-McGee, Debbie Lesko, and others, served on Governor Ducey's Arizona Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit Task Force.

### Details of HB 2268:

- Health care facilities would have 24 hours to notify law enforcement when a sexual assault test kit has been collected.
- Law enforcement agencies would have five business days to take possession of collected evidence and 15 business days to submit evidence to a crime laboratory.
- Crime laboratories must process evidence as soon as is practicable and run gathered evidence through DNA databases at the municipal, state, and federal levels.

- Law enforcement agencies and crime laboratories would be required to file annual reports to the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission detailing the number of kits processed and reasons some kits may not have been processed.

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